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(54) Abstract Title
Aromatherapy oil vapour dispenser

(57) An aromatherapy oil vapour dispenser comprises a combination of: a carrier body member 11 of which at least a part is adapted to receive and retain an amount of aromatherapy oil in such a way that vapour from the oil can be released to ambient air at least when the part of the carrier is subject to the flow of air through the carrier; and a mounting means 21 for containing and supporting the body member, the mounting means including attachment means, such as at least one adhesive region, whereby the mounting means can be attached to a support in the vicinity of a source of air flow (70, Fig 7); the mounting means being of an open work configuration providing for the ready access of air to the body member at least when the air is moving and to allow air to carry aromatic vapour generated away from vicinity of the body member.

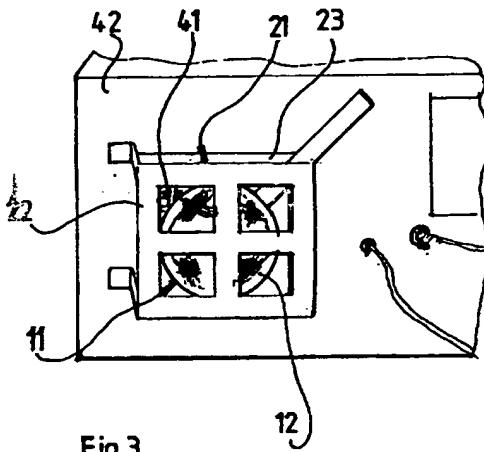


Fig 3

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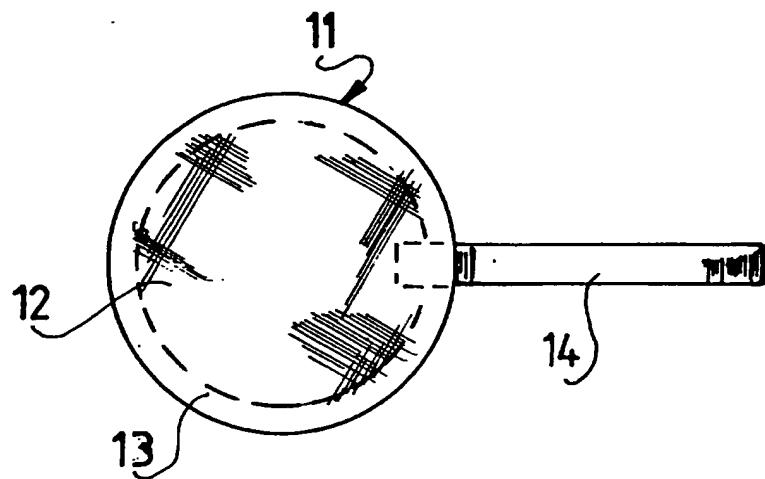


Fig 1

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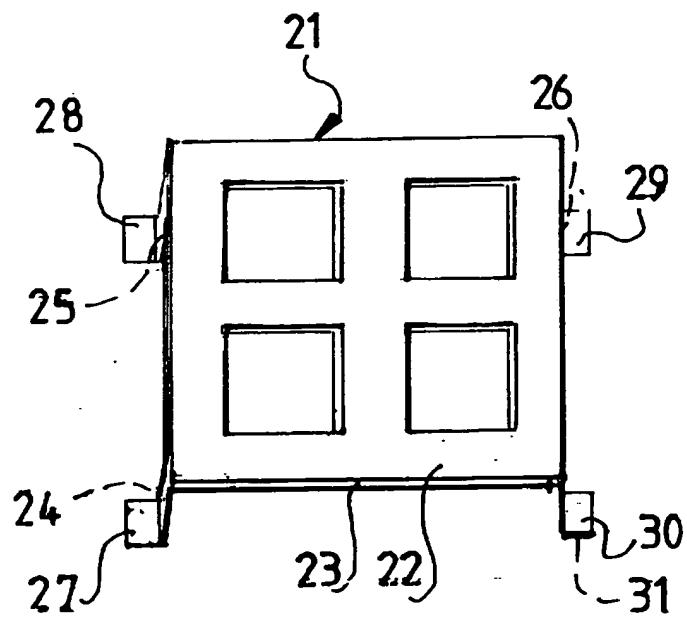
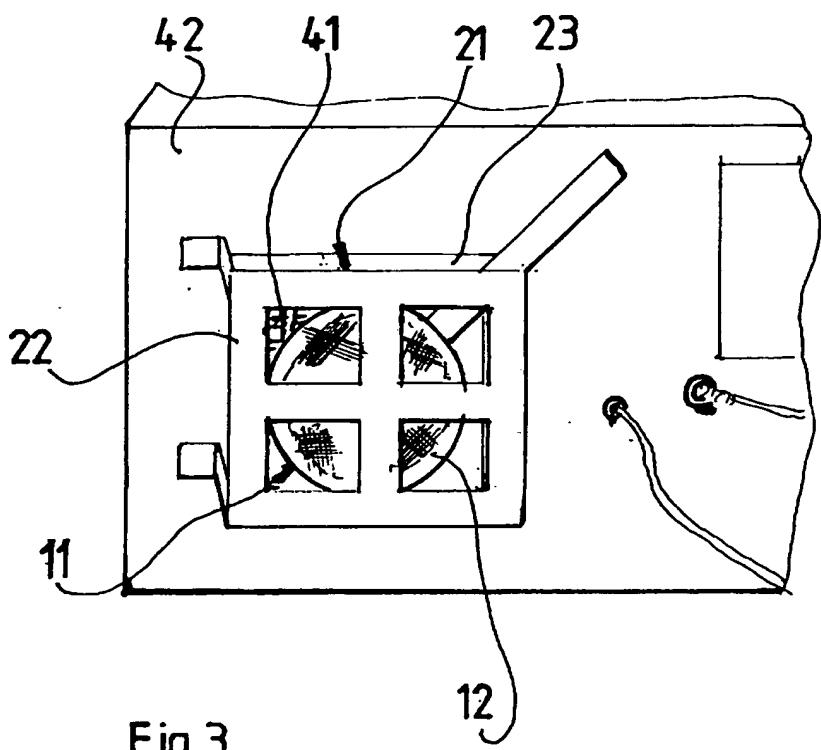


Fig 2

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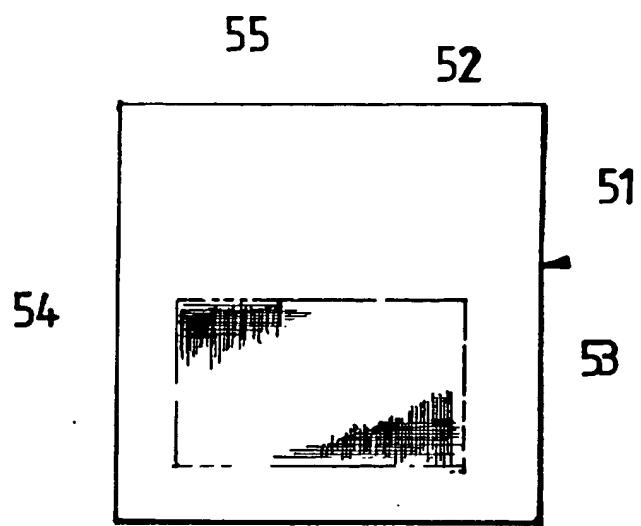


Fig 4

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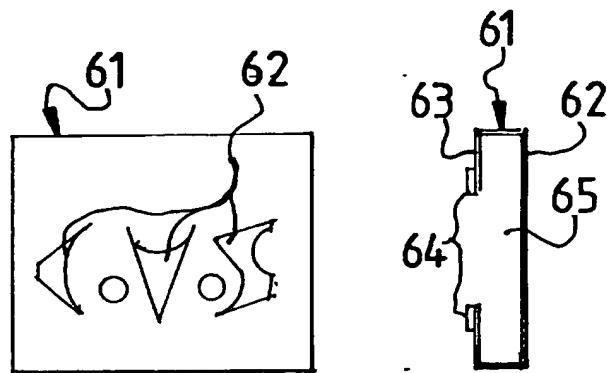


Fig 5A

Fig 5B

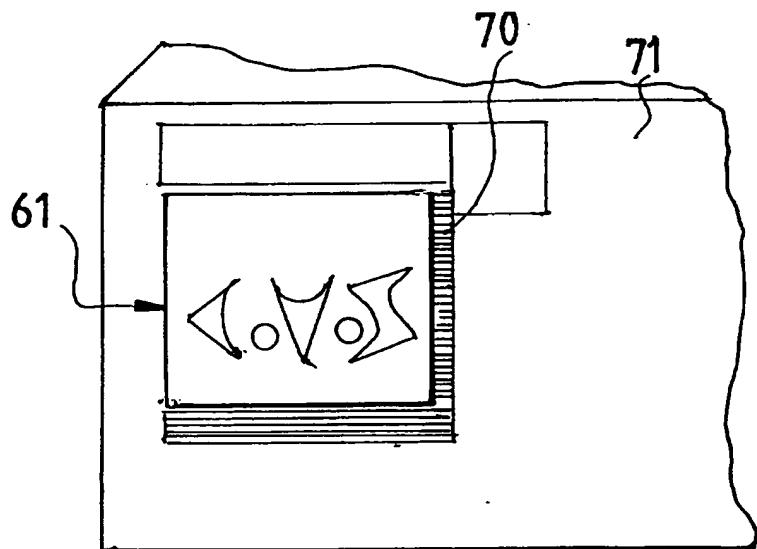


Fig 7

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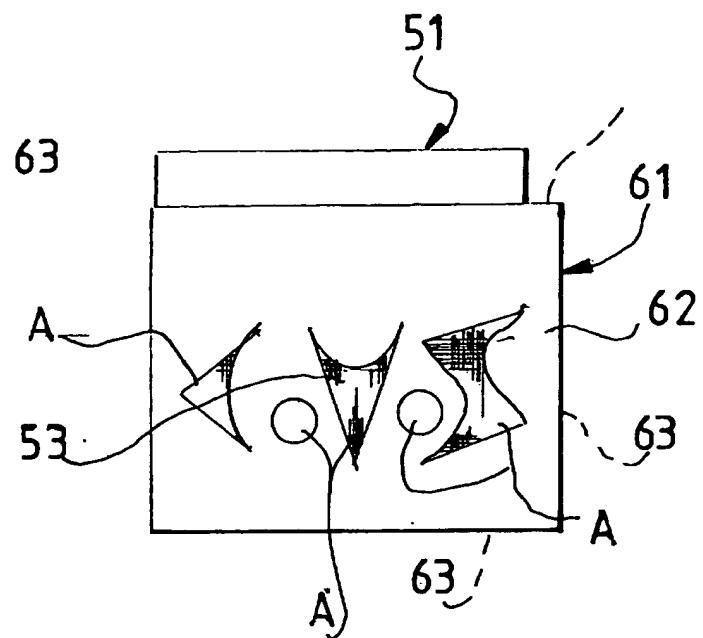


Fig 6

AROMATHERAPY OIL VAPOUR DISPENSER

This invention relates to an aromatherapy oil vapour dispenser.

Aromatherapy oils derived from plant extracts have been used for centuries for the relief of illnesses and for promoting good health. As early as 1653, aromatherapy oils were recognised to prevent and cure many ailments (Culpepper's Complete Herbal Book, 1653). Depending on the essential oil used, their effect can be stimulating and head-clearing or calming and relaxing. Aromatherapy oils are beneficial to individuals who suffer from depression (Bergamot, Jasmine, Neroli and Rose) and can also reduce mental fatigue (Basil, Peppermint, Rosemary). They can also relieve tension and reduce stress (Frankincense, Melissa, Ylang-ylang); prevent air-borne infections, act as an air freshener and remove unpleasant odours, and also repel flying insects.

Herinafter, the term 'aromatherapy oil' should be taken to include an essential oil, fragrant oil and/or any carrier material and any mixture involving these.

According to a first aspect of the present invention there is provided an aromatherapy oil vapour dispenser comprising a combination of:

a carrier body member of which at least a part is adapted to receive and retain an amount of aromatherapy oil in such a way that vapour from the oil can be released to an ambient air flow; and

a mounting means for containing and supporting the body member, the mounting means including attachment means, such as at least one adhesive region, whereby the mounting means can be attached to a support in the vicinity of a source of an air flow; the mounting means being of an open work configuration providing for the ready access of air to the body member at least when the air is moving to allow air to carry aromatic vapour generated away from the body member.

According to a first preferred version of the present invention the body member is either a member of porous material such as paper impregnated, or adapted for impregnation, with aromatherapy oil; or is a member formed by a material which though not necessarily porous in itself is of a mesh, net or foraminous material to provide an extended surface on which aromatherapy oil is, or can be, deposited and from which vapour from the oil is readily released by a flow of air.

Embodiments of the present invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings of an aromatherapy dispenser or a component for use therewith of which:

Figure 1 shows a first embodiment including an aromatherapy oil carrier body;

Figure 2 shows a mounting means for use with the carrier of Figure 1;

Figure 3 shows a combination of the body of Figure 1 with the mounting means of Figure 2 when located on a source of air flow.

Figure 4 shows a second embodiment including a an aroma therapy oil carrier body;

Figures 5A and 5B shows a mounting means for use with the carrier body of Figure 4,

Figure 5A being a front view and Figure 5B a side view;

Figure 6 shows a combination of the body of Figure 4 with the mounting means of

Figure 5; and

Figure 7 shows the combination of Figure 6 located on a source of air flow.

FIRST EMBODIMENT (Figures 1 to 3)

Figure 1

An aromatherapy oil carrier body 11 comprises a perforated paper disk 12 mounted within a flat annulus 13. The annulus 13 incorporates an integral handle 14 by means of which the carrier 11 is readily placed inserted into or withdrawn from a mounting means described hereafter with reference to Figures 2 and 3.

Figure 2

A mounting means 21 made up of a pair of two flat lattice plates 22 and 23. The plates 22, 23 are in the form of an openwork lattice to allow air free passage through and around them. The plates 22, 23 are spaced parallel to each other and kept apart by way of integral side struts - typically strut 24, 25, 26 - spaced around perimeter of the plates 22, 23. At each corner of the mounting means 21 four corner feet 27, 28, 29, 30 protrude away from the rear plate 23 and on the opposite side of the mounting means 21 to the front plate 22. On the underside of each foot 27 to 30 there is provided a double-sided adhesive foam pad (typically pad 31) to provide for demountable attachment of the carrier 11 to a convenient mounting point on a housing from which a supply of air flow can be directed.

Figure 3

The mounting means 21 of Figure 2 is shown with a carrier body 11 of Figure 1 mounted within it. The disk 12 of the body 11 has the required aromatherapy oil placed on it and is then inserted into the mounting means 21.

The mounting means 21 is shown located over a vent 41 in a housing 42 for a domestic television set. Within the housing 42 operation of the set results in the generation of a substantial amount of air which vents from a number of apertures and vents in the casing including vent 41. Air flows through vent 41 as a result of natural convection. The open work nature of the plates 22, 23 of the mounting means 21 offer little resistance to air flow through the mounting means 21 which consequently readily flows through the carrier body 11. As a result of this air flow, aromatherapy oil on the mounting means 21 is vaporised and then swept on into the room containing the set. If necessary the peripheral gap between the mounting 21 and the aperture 43 can be closed, to a greater or lesser extent, to ensure that air is caused to flow to the mounting means and through body 11 so carrying aromatic vapour out with it, rather than leaking out through a peripheral gap between the aperture 43 and mounting means 21.

The carrier described in relation to Figures 1 and 3 is of a perforated material which is readily impregnated with the required aromatherapy oil. Such carriers can either be surface active devices where the flow of air around the outside of the carrier results in

the required evaporation from the surface of the carrier. It is also envisaged that an alternative type of carrier could be provided as a bulk active device being a body with many paths through it so that at least some of the warm air arriving at the carrier can pass through the carrier so causing evaporation of oil within the bulk of the carrier. Such a carrier would not need to be of a saturatable material but could be a mesh of strands of material serving to provide an extended surfaces on which aromatherapy oil could be deposited by immersing the carrier in a supply of oil. Whatever version of the carrier is used it can incorporate an adhesive pad or pads or other means for anchoring the carrier to its support. Alternatively the carrier can be held in a frame or cradle which incorporates the means for anchoring to a support.

Figure 3 shows the carrier body in its mounting means located on a source of air flow in the form of a TV set. However any device generating air flow can be used (such as computer casing, audio or television equipment, kitchen cooking or refrigerating units, office copiers,). In addition where the air flow under natural convection is not sufficient low power fans or other forced convection devices can be used.

SECOND EMBODIMENT (Figures 4 to 7)

Figure 4

An aromatherapy oil carrier body 51 is formed by a rectangular envelope 52 which contains an aperture 53 extending through the envelope 52. In aperture 53 is mounted a paper mesh pad 54. The upper part 55 of the envelope 52 serves to provide a handle allowing the body 51 to be inserted into, or withdrawn from, a mounting means as will be described hereafter with reference to figures 5A, 5B, 6 and 7.

Figures 5A and 5B

A mounting means 61 for the carrier body 51 comprises a front panel 62 pierced with apertures A and a set of rear mounting strips 63 which are provided on their rearmost side with adhesive pads 64 enabling the mounting means 61 to be demountably

attached to a source of air flow. The strips 63 serve to provide a boundary for air entering the mounting means 61 so that the air is caused to pass through central volume 65 and so through the apertures 62 into the ambient air.

Figure 6

A combination is shown made up of mounting means 61 of Figure 5 with carrier body 51 of Figure 4. The body 51 is located in mounting means 61 between front panel 62 and strips 63. The paper mesh pad 53 of the carrier 51 is juxtaposed with apertures A of the mounting 61.

Figure 7

The combination of Figure 6 is shown located on a vent 70 in a housing 71 of a computer monitor by means of adhesive pads on the mounting means 61. In operation a substantial amount of air flow is generated by the monitor and is vented from the housing by vent 70 (amongst others).

To make use of the combination when mounting means 61 is in place the carrier 51 is withdrawn from the combination and a few drops of a selected aromatherapy oil is deposited on the mesh pad 53 (Figure 6). The loaded carrier 51 is then inserted back into the mounting means 61. Air, in flowing out of vent 70 passes by natural convection through the combination so that the air passes through pad 54 and oil deposited on it resulting in vapourisation of some of the aromatherapy oil and its passage through Aperture A into the surrounding air.

To market the invention a pack can be provided comprising a few carriers, a mounting means and some phials of aromatherapy oils by means of which drops of oil can be deposited on a carrier. Information is also provided as to the effects of particular oils and of possible combinations of oils.

CLAIMS

- 1 An aromatherapy oil vapour dispenser comprising a combination of:
 - a carrier body member of which at least a part is adapted to receive and retain an amount of aromatherapy oil in such a way that vapour from the oil can be released to ambient air at least when the part of the carrier is subject to the flow of air through the carrier.
 - a mounting means for containing and supporting the body member, the mounting means including attachment means, such as at least one adhesive region, whereby the mounting means can be attached to a support in the vicinity of a source of air flow; the mounting means being of an open work configuration providing for the ready access of air to the body member at least when the air is moving and to allow air to carry aromatic vapour generated away from the vicinity of the body member.
- 2 A dispenser as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the body member is either a member of porous material such as paper impregnated, or adapted for impregnation, with aromatherapy oil; or is a member formed by a material which though not necessarily porous in itself is of a mesh, net or foraminous material to provide an extended surface on which aromatherapy oil is, or can be, deposited and from which vapour from the oil is readily released by the application of a flow of air.
- 3 An aromatherapy oil carrier as hereinbefore described with reference to Figure 1 or Figure 4 of the accompanying drawings.
- 4 An aromatherapy oil vapour dispenser as hereinbefore described with reference to Figures 3 or Figure 6 of the accompanying drawings.



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Application No: GB 9811920.9
Claims searched: 1-4

Examiner: Gavin Dale
Date of search: 24 August 1998

Patents Act 1977
Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.P): A5G (GV)

Int Cl (Ed.6): A61L 9/12

Other: Online: WPI

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
X	GB 2263404A (JARVIS) See page 4 line 13 to page 5 line 6	1,2
X	GB 2060392A (REPLCLIF SALES LTD) See Fig 2 and page 2 lines 4-13	1,2
X	GB 0292656 (CHARLES HERMON PRETTY) See Fig 2	1,2

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